

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Michael HOUGHTON et al.

Application No.: 09/884,456

Confirmation No.: 1937

Filed: June 18, 2001

Art Unit: 1656

For: HEPATITIS C VIRUS PROTEASE

Examiner: W. Moore

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111**

MS RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the final Office Action dated October 2, 2009, for which a response was due on January 2, 2010 (Part of Paper No./Mail Date 20090930). This response is submitted with petition for a three-months' extension of time and a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 3 of this paper.